



SMHS Board Communiqué

Excellent health care, every time

March 2024 Meeting

This communiqué highlights key discussions of interest at the South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS) Board meeting which was held at Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH) on Monday 25 March 2024.

As part of this month’s acknowledgement of traditional owners, Board member Liam Roche acknowledged the Whadjuk people of the Noongar lands on which the Board was meeting. Liam reflected on an article written by Chanelle van den Berg, Murdoch University Pro Vice Chancellor First Nations on providing a meaningful and personal Acknowledgment of Country and how this is the most significant step towards reconciliation. Liam noted SMHS already undertakes many of the steps toward reconciliation suggested by Ms van den Berg.

In patient stories this month, Board members heard about a patient at FSH who was fasted in preparation for a procedure which took longer than anticipated to be undertaken due to multiple competing factors. The Board reflected on the importance of coordination of care and emphasised the need for communication with patients to ensure they understand the processes taking place. The second story shared with the Board was positive feedback received by the Rockingham General Hospital (RGH) obstetrics team from a new father, who expressed his gratitude in the treatment of his wife during her labour and the birth of their daughter.

The Board also welcomed Ms Clare Mullen, Executive Director Health Consumers’ Council (HCC) to the meeting, who demonstrated her passion and commitment to consumer engagement during her presentation on HCC’s current work and further opportunities for the Board to explore in connecting with consumers. I reflected on the topics of safe care and communication that often arise through the patient stories presented at Board.



FSFHG; and Ms Deborah Matthews, Research Support and Development Unit, SMHS.

In the Board Chair’s report, I reflected on attending a public breakfast forum at FSH on International Women’s Day, where some of our leading researchers at Fiona Stanley and Fremantle Hospitals Group (FSFHG) shared some personal and career-related wisdom. *Pictured left (L-R): Adj. Assoc. Prof. Robyn Collins, SMHS Board Chair; Ms Mel Wright, Director Research SMHS; Emerita Prof. Anne Williams, Murdoch University; Dr Dayse Tavora-Vieira, Head of Audiology FSFHG; Dr Helen Dejong, Research Coordinator for Occupational Therapy*

I also thanked Board member Yvonne Parnell for representing the Board in opening the most recent Fiona Wood public lecture – *Menopause matters: what you need to know*. The session attracted 180 attendees and was delivered by Dr Ashley Makepeace, an endocrinologist at FSFHG.

Pictured right: Dr Ashley Makepeace and Ms Yvonne Parnell, SMHS Board member with lecture attendees.



The Chief Executive's report this month included updates on:

- Emergency and elective access across SMHS' sites.
- The Peel Health Campus (PHC) transition and redevelopment project update.
- Kara Maar eating disorders service.
- Recent visits and events with ministers and the Premier held on SMHS sites, including:
 - a media event with Premier and Minister for Medical Research at FSH to announce [an increase in funding for research](#).
 - a media event with the Premier and Minister Ellery for International Women's Day at Fremantle Hospital. The setting for the event was the construction site of the new 40 mental health beds and the event was [celebrating gender equality in the construction industry](#).
 - a media event with the Premier and Minister Sanderson to announce [the lease of the former Bethesda Mental Health Clinic building](#) to deliver a public mental health service.

Chairs and members of the Board Committees provided reports on the issues considered at their most recent meetings and highlighted specific items including:

- The Safety and Quality Committee discussed the importance of the emergency access recovery program and considered regular safety and quality reports, including clinical incidents.
- The Finance and Governance Committee discussed the finance, activity, and staffing reports, reviewed contract management reports and risks.
- The Audit and Risk Committee considered the PHC project update, lost time injury data, the risk register report, audit log, internal audit reports and integrity and ethics matters, as well as reflecting on the recent work health safety (WHS) walk at RGH.



Pictured right (L-R): Ms Heather Pearce, Director Nursing and Midwifery Rockingham Peel Group (RkPG); Ms Clair McKeown, Nurse Unit Manager Aged Care Rehabilitation Unit RGH; Sue Le Souef, Board member; Melissa Amien, WHS Manager RGH; and Julian Henderson, Board member in front of RGH's WHS noticeboard.



The Bunuru season is the time of the white flowers, with white flowering gums such as jarrah, marri and ghost gums in full bloom. Another striking flower is the female zamia. As the hot, dry weather continues, the seeds on its cones begin to ripen, changing from green to bright red. This makes them more attractive to animals, particularly the wetj (emu).

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled to take place on Monday 29 April 2024 at FSH.

Adjunct Associate Professor Robyn Collins
Board Chair, South Metropolitan Health Service
27 March 2024